Keep Insect Pests Out of Your House

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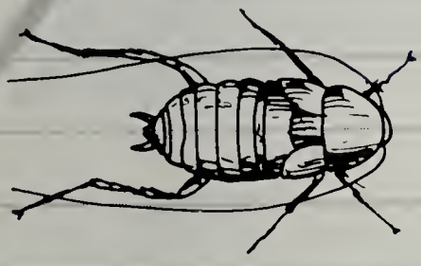

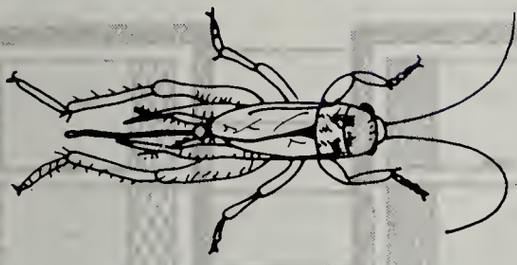

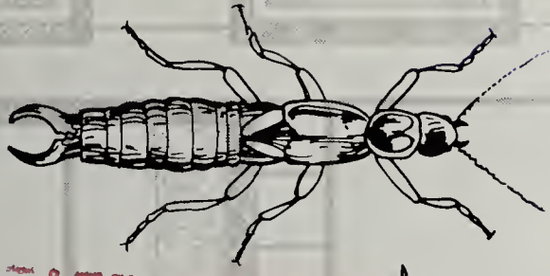

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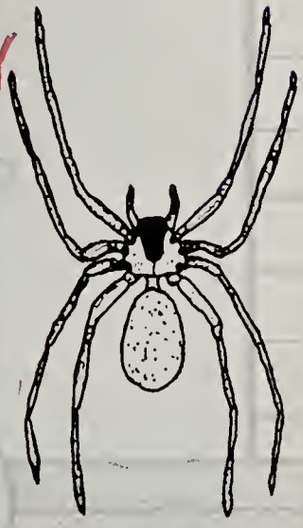


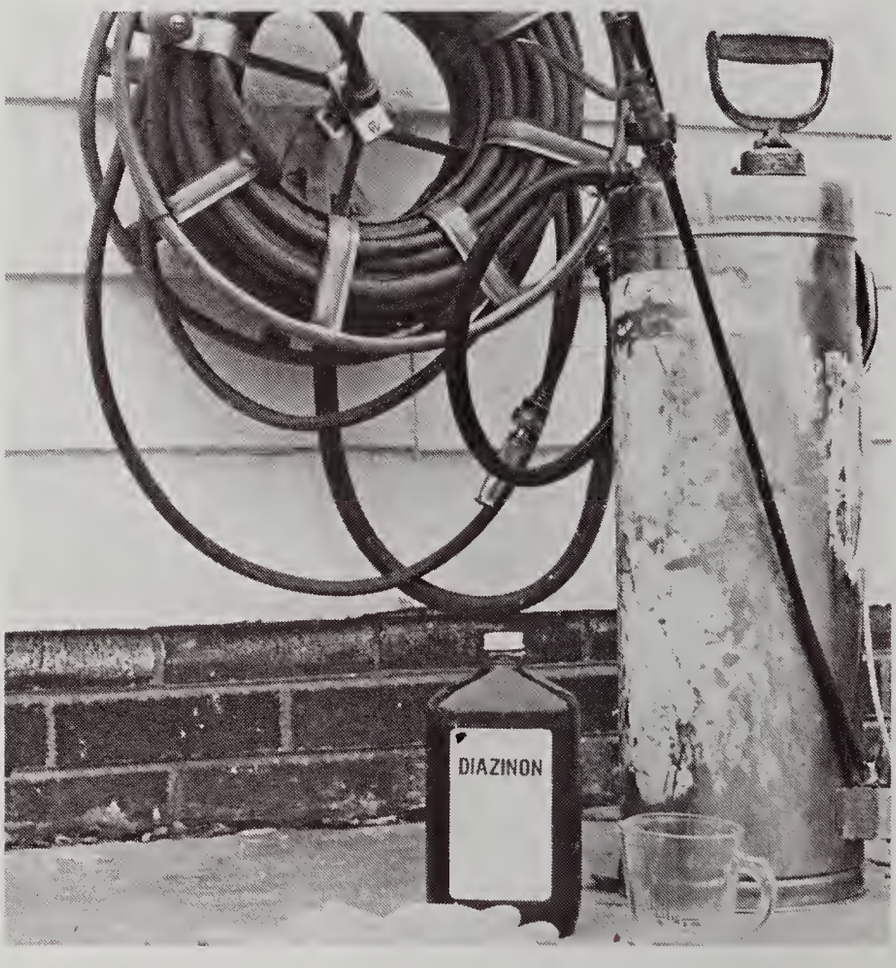
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
College of Agriculture • Cooperative Extension Service
in cooperation with Illinois Natural History Survey
Circular 1189

Ants, spiders, crickets, and other outdoor pests invade our homes as they search for food and winter protection. Once they are in the house, the homeowner must either tolerate them or use pesticides in the form of baits, dusts, or sprays.

However, since children taste-test many things, careless pesticide application, improper storage, and thoughtless placement of baits expose children to danger. If the object of a child's curiosity happens to be a pesticide, he may become very sick or even die.

You can save yourself a great deal of worry over your child's safety by avoiding the use of sprays and baits in the home whenever possible. Instead, spray a barrier of diazinon on the outside foundation of the house whenever crawling insects become apparent in the house.

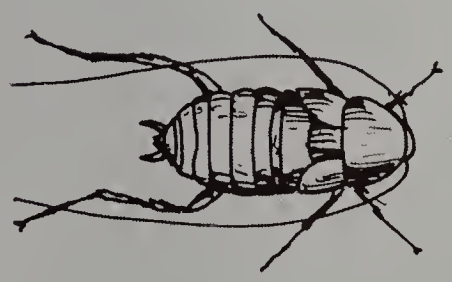
Diazinon is sold under many trade names. Diazinon is the common name. The chemical name, which may be shown on the label, is O,O-diethyl-O-(2-isopropyl-4-methyl-6-pyrimidyl) phosphorothioate.



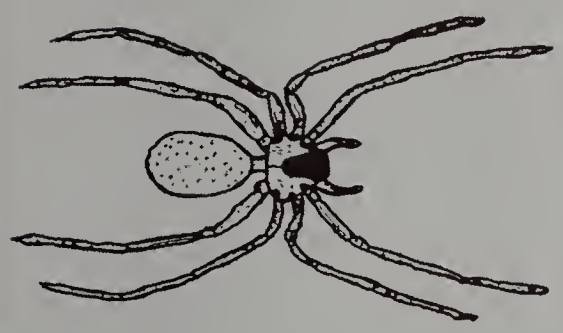
These Are the Invaders

Ants live in the soil in a colony. As workers forage for food, they enter our homes by crawling up the foundations. You can avoid at least 95 percent of the ant problems in your home by properly using a foundation spray.

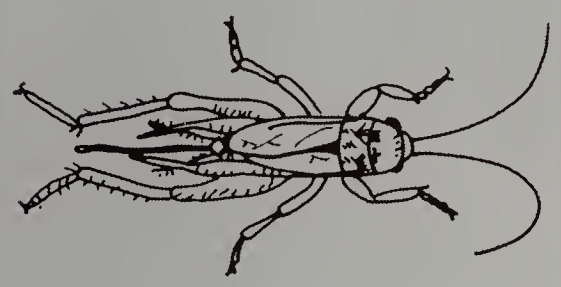
Centipedes and millipedes feed in grass and sod areas such as lawns. In late summer and early fall these pests migrate into homes. Foundation sprays help to keep them out.



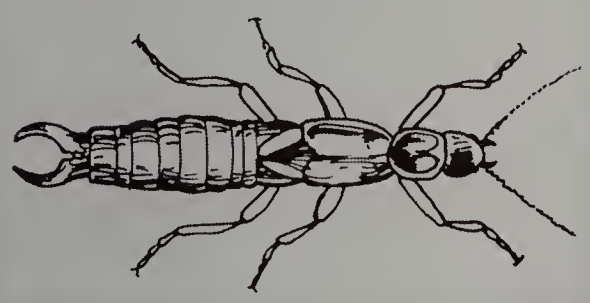
"Waterbugs" (oriental roaches) and wood roaches may enter homes in a variety of ways. They commonly migrate into houses during warm weather. You may need to apply insecticides indoors to control waterbugs that are carried into the home in packages and boxes. But certainly you can eliminate one source of infestation — invasion from outdoors — by spraying the foundation.



Spiders also invade our homes from outdoors. Once established in a house, they are difficult to exterminate. Over a period of time, foundation sprays will gradually reduce infestations of these pests.



Crickets abound in lawns, vacant lots, pastures, and other grassy areas. Some crawl across the foundation into the house. Again, foundation sprays are a great help.



Earwigs feed on dead organic material outside of the house. These nuisance pests frequently come into the house in midsummer. Foundation sprays form a barrier to these insects and keep them outside.

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A 5-step Foundation Spray Program

1. Purchase an emulsifiable concentration of diazinon. Dilute with water to ½ percent diazinon for a foundation spray. Since the average house requires about 3 gallons of finished spray, you will need 8 ounces of 25 percent diazinon concentrate in 3 gallons of water to get a ½ percent solution.

2. Spray the foundation just to the point of runoff. Spray all the way around the house.

3. Spray a 2- to 4-inch band of soil alongside the foundation.

4. Spray behind concrete steps and other structures that abut the foundation.

5. Apply spray to cracks and crevices in the foundation and in concrete slabs abutting the foundation.

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When to Ap...

Apply whenever crawling insects become apparent in the house. Reapply as needed.

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Be Careful

If you use a foundation spray instead of indoor applications, your home will be safer for your children and still reasonably free of outdoor pests. However, do not let carelessness rob you of the safety advantage of foundation sprays. **Always** follow these precautions:

1. Do not apply foundation sprays if a dug well or cistern is near the foundation.

2. Do not smoke while working with pesticides.

3. Wear rubber or plastic gloves when mixing concentrates.

4. Store pesticides out of reach of children and irresponsible adults.

5. Do not be a sloppy, careless sprayer.

6. Wash with soap and water after using pesticides.

Others Can Do the Job for You

Rather than do the spraying yourself, you may prefer to hire your local exterminator to perform this service for you.

This circular was prepared by David A. Gentry, Assistant Entomologist in Pesticide Training with the Office of Agricultural Entomology and the Illinois Natural History Survey, and Philip Nixon, Area Adviser in Entomology.

The Illinois Cooperative Extension Service provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

Urbana, Illinois January, 1981

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. WILLIAM R. OSCHWALD, *Director,* Cooperative Extension Service, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

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